

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 28, 2004

Massachusetts Seventh District

CONTACT: Mark Bayer or

Kate Reinhalter

(202) 225-2836

REPS. MARKEY AND KING APPLAUD NEW YORK'S LANDMARK CIGARETTE FIRE SAFETY LAW

*Congressmen Urge Adoption of Cigarette Fire Safety Act of 2004 to Make
NY Law the National Standard*

Washington, D.C. - Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and Rep. King (R-NY) released the following statement applauding New York's adoption of a landmark cigarette fire safety law and calling for the swift passage of H.R. 4155, legislation that Rep. Markey and Rep. King introduced in 2004 to create a national standard based on the New York law.

Rep. Markey said, "Today marks a new era for fire safety. New Yorkers can rest easy knowing that their families are now protected from the number one cause of fatal fires in America. However, New Yorkers should not be the only ones who are protected from these tiny torches. This is why Rep. King and I have introduced the Cigarette Fire Safety Act to make the New York standard the national standard.

"The implementation of the first cigarette fire safety standard dispels the myth that less fire prone cigarettes are not technically possible or commercially feasible. It's now clear that the tobacco companies were hiding behind a smokescreen of misinformation. If manufacturers can make and market less fire prone cigarettes for sale in New York, then they can make them for the entire country. All Americans should have the same peace of mind that New Yorkers now enjoy.

Rep. King said, "Far too often innocent children, senior citizens, and firefighters risk their lives every day rushing into cigarette ignited fires. To prevent this and save thousands of lives, New York cannot be the only state. We must set a reasonable, national ignition standard for cigarettes. This legislation will do just that."

The bipartisan Cigarette Fire Safety Act of 2004 (H.R. 4155) has 53 co-sponsors and has been endorsed by the American Burn Association, the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, the National Fire

Protection Association, the National Volunteer Fire Council, The City of New York
Department of Mental Health and Hygiene, and the Trauma Foundation.